Classroom Activity 5: Telling It Like It Is
## Classroom Activity 5: Tell It Like It Is

**CEFR Level:** B2 (10-14 year olds)

### Activity Aims:
- Identify the differences between direct and reported speech
- Convert simple sentences from direct to reported speech using a set of rules

### Strategy/Pedagogy
Interview skills, collaborative learning, questioning techniques

### Short Description
In this lesson, students will interview a classmate and use reported speech to write an account of their story. Students are taught the grammar rules of reported speech and are expected to convert a text.
1. Show students a video clip from the local English news. Ask them to identify what text type it is (report).

2. Guide them to understand that news reports are written in reported speech, because they tell another person’s story.

3. Explain to them that it is important that they learn to accurately tell someone else’s story.

4. In this lesson they will interview a classmate and write an account of their story using reported speech.

Introduction
Main Activity

1. Revise the rules of converting direct speech to reported speech.

2. Explain to students that they will pretend to be reporters in this lesson. They will interview the teacher, who is a suspect in a murder and will then write a newspaper report using material from the interview.

3. Students may use the interview questions in the handout, or craft their own. Students may also interview each other. The teacher will prepare answers to the questions that the students will ask. Students should take turns to ask questions. They may use their mobile phones to record the ‘suspect’s’ responses, or may write down word for word what the ‘suspect’ has said.

4. Students will then write a newspaper report using material from their ‘interview’.
Student Engagement - 1

Rules for converting Direct Speech to Reported Speech

1. Remove all inverted commas when writing reported speech.

2. Change the tense: Change present tense to past tense.
   
   Direct speech: He said, “I am watching a movie.”
   
   Reported speech: He said that he was watching a movie.

3. Use the word ‘that’ between the reporting verb and the reported speech
   
   Direct speech: Amy said, “I love cake.”
   
   Reported speech: Amy said that she loved cake.

4. Change the pronoun ‘I’ to ‘he’ or ‘she’
   
   Direct speech: Amy said, “I love cake.”
   
   Reported speech: Amy said that she loves cake.

5. Change the time:
   
   Today □ that day
   
   Yesterday □ the previous day
   
   Tomorrow □ the next day
You are a journalist, and you work for the most important newspaper in the country, The Star. You have been asked to interview a murder suspect. After your interview, you will write a newspaper report about the murder case.

Write down the suspect’s answers exactly how they said it.

Did you kill the man?

_____________________________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________

Why did you kill the man?

_____________________________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________

What weapon did you use?

_____________________________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________

Describe how you killed the man.

_____________________________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________

Do you regret your actions?

_____________________________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________
Now, use the suspect's responses and write a newspaper report of what they did and how they did it.

Remember to use reported speech.

You may use the following sentence starter to help you begin:

_Last Saturday, Mr Tommy Tan was found dead in his apartment._

_Police suspect that he was murdered by ..._

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